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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re PATENT APPLICATION OF

Confirmation No. 9549

Janulaitis et al.

Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Application Serial No. 09/883,249

Examiner: Unassigned

Filed: June 19, 2001

Title: NUCLEASE

March 3, 2003

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follow:

Please delete the paragraph on page 8, lines 4-11, and replace it with the following paragraph:

a1
In another preferred embodiment, the step of inactivating the catalytic activity of one subunit of the restriction endonuclease comprises identifying the catalytic domain of the subunit and subsequently introducing mutations into the catalytic domain by site-specific mutagenesis. In this embodiment the catalytic domain may be identified by any suitable method, preferably by comparing the protein sequence of the subunit with the protein sequence motifs from other restriction endonucleases. By "protein sequence motifs" it is meant in particular the sequences of the known catalytic domains of other restriction endonucleases, such as the (E/D)_{X₉₋₁₅}EXX (SEQ ID NO: 9) motif characteristic of some endonucleases.

Please delete the paragraph on page 16, line 7, and replace it with the following paragraph:

a2
FIGURE 1 shows the amino acid sequence of restriction endonuclease *Bpu10I* α (SEQ ID NO: 1) and β (SEQ ID NO: 2) subunits.

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